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February 14, 2006

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice, ET Docket Nos. 04-151, 02-380 and 98-237, WT  
Docket No. 05-96

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Yesterday, Sara Cole of TDS Telecommunications Corp. ("TDS Telecom"), Gerard J. Waldron and the undersigned, counsel to TDS Telecom, met with Eli Johnson, Won Kim, Martin Liebman and Jennifer Salhus (of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau) and Geraldine Matise, Jamison Prime, and Edward Ryder (of the Office of Engineering and Technology). This letter is accordingly submitted pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules to provide notice of a permitted *ex parte* communication in the above-referenced proceeding.

In this meeting, we discussed and provided copies of TDS Telecom's comments in this proceeding, as well as the attached presentation. Ms. Cole reiterated TDS Telecom's request that the Commission promptly allocate the 3650-3700 MHz band as two, 25 MHz-wide MSA/RSA blocks to be licensed on an exclusive basis.

Please direct any questions concerning this information to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. DelNero  
*Counsel to TDS Telecom*

cc (by e-mail): Eli Johnson  
Won Kim  
Martin Liebman

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Geraldine Matise  
Jamison Prime  
Edward Ryder  
Jennifer Salhus

## **A CALL FOR LICENSED MSA/RSA SPECTRUM IN THE 3650 MHz BAND**

**OVERVIEW:** To promote broadband deployment to rural and non-urban communities, TDS Telecom urges the Commission to allocate the 3650-3700 MHz band as two, 25 MHz-wide MSA/RSA blocks to be licensed on an exclusive basis.

***TDS Telecom's Commitment to Broadband:*** TDS Telecom, which serves over 900 rural and non-urban communities in 28 states through its facilities-based ILEC and CLEC subsidiaries, is eager to deploy broadband to *all* of its communities.

***Wireless is Key to TDS Telecom's Broadband Initiative:*** TDS Telecom has invested considerable sums in deploying wireline broadband. But it is inhibited from reaching all of its users because:

- TDS Telecom's ILECs serve many rural, sparsely populated areas. Provision of DSL to these and other areas is inhibited by distance from the central office and capital constraints. With a wireless broadband network, TDS Telecom may effectively and efficiently reach more of its customers.
- TDS Metrocom, a CLEC, is losing access to RBOC network elements that are essential to broadband deployment.

***3650 MHz Spectrum Offers Desirable Propagation Characteristics:*** The propagation characteristics and high data-rate capacity of the 3650 MHz spectrum would support robust, quality broadband service to TDS Telecom's customers, including those in rural areas.

***Only Licensed Spectrum Offers Sufficient Quality of Service:*** Deployment of wireless broadband requires investment in equipment, software, labor, marketing and other resources. TDS Telecom cannot take the risk that its wireless network will be rendered useless in 5-10 years due to limitless entry into the band. The "contention-based protocols" adopted in the 3650 MHz proceeding are insufficient guards against harmful interference.

***MSA/RSA Blocks are Affordable for Smaller Carriers:*** So long as the 3650 MHz spectrum is auctioned on an MSA/RSA basis, TDS Telecom believes it could successfully bid for spectrum in many key areas. In contrast, smaller carriers like TDS Telecom would be priced out if required to bid for larger blocks (*e.g.*, EAs or MEAs). TDS Telecom also doubts it could succeed in the more lucrative 700 MHz or AWS spectrum auctions.